

# 1 Samuel 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, I-chabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

## Analysis

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**And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, I-chabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.**

The genealogy of Ahijah connects back to Eli's doomed house - he is 'I-chabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli.' The ephod he wears represents legitimate priestly access to divine guidance through Urim and Thummim. Yet Saul's consultation of this priest will prove problematic (verses 18-19). The notation that 'the people knew not that Jonathan was gone' emphasizes the secret, individual nature of Jonathan's faith venture. Corporate Israel was unaware of the deliverance being initiated.

## Historical Context

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Ahijah's connection to Eli's house is significant given God's judgment on that family (1 Samuel 2:27-36). The ephod contained the Urim and Thummim, used for obtaining divine guidance through yes/no questions. Saul's relationship with this priestly line would prove increasingly problematic.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God sometimes use individuals acting alone to deliver the larger community?
2. What does Jonathan's secrecy suggest about his assessment of his father's spiritual state?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַחִיָּה	בֶּן	אָחִיטוּב	אָחִי	אִיכָבֹד	בֶּן	פִּינֶחָס
And Ahiah	the son	of Ahitub	brother	Ichabod's	the son	of Phinehas
H281	H1121	H285	H251	H350	H1121	H6372
אִם	וְאֵלֶּי	כֹּהֵן	יְהוָה	בְּשִׁלֹּה	נִשָּׂא	אֶפֶד
the son	of Eli	priest	the LORD'S	in Shiloh	wearing	an ephod
H1121	H5941	H3548	H3068	H7887	H5375	H646
וְהָעָם	לֹא	יָדָע	כִּי	הָיָה	יֹנָתָן	
And the people		knew		was gone	not that Jonathan	
H5971	H3808	H3045	H3588	H1980	H3129	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 22:20** (Parallel theme): And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

**1 Samuel 2:28** (Parallel theme): And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

**1 Samuel 4:21** (Parallel theme): And she named the child I-chabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

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